Karnataka and Maharashtra.

(b) A meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra was convened by the then Minister of Water Resources on 5.4.1991 but the same did not materialise because the Chief Minister of Karnataka informed that they would themselves resolve the issues relating to sharing of Krishna waters. The three Chief Ministers have met twice in 1990 and are scheduled to meet again for consideration of the four tentative alternative proposals that emerged during their second meeting.

[*Translation*]

Indo-Nepal Talks on Multi-Purpose Projects

1293. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARI KISORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the latest round of talks held between the official delegates of Nepal and India regarding multi-purpose projects on bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Karnali rivers;

(b) whether an time-bound agreement has been reached on the execution of these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the expenditure on Kosi project especially on anti-soil erosion work is being incurred by the Government of Bihar whereas it was to be incurred by the Union Government;

(e) if so, whether the Union Govemment propose to compensate the Government of Bihar in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Investigations for Bagmati, Kamla and Kosi need to be carried out for preparation of project reports. For Karnali remaining studies are to be completed. However no formal agreement has been reached so far.

(d) to (f). The maintenance of Kosi Project including the anti-erosion works is done by Bihar, the beneficiary State out of their own funds. As it was becoming difficult to meet the expenditure, State Government requested Centre to provide funds. They were advised to submit a scheme in the form of a project proposal. This is awaited.

[*English*]

Water Resources Projects in West Bengal

1294. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament from West Bengals put forward certain suggestions before the Union Government relating to water resources projects in the State;

(b) if so, the broad details of such suggestions;

(c) the details of suggestions proposed to be implemented by the Government; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to implement them and the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). A statement regarding suggestions put forward by some Members of Parliament from West bengal to Union Government relating to Water Resources Projects is attached.

STATEMENT

In the meeting taken with members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from West Bengal on 8th August 1991 at New Delhi, the Members had laid emphasis on Teesta Barrage Project to be declared as National Project and fully runded by the Centre in the VIIU Plan for its early completion the other allied issues as brought forward were approval to Upper Venkateshwar Project, early clearance of Vidyadhar Flood Control Scheme early clearance of Subarnarekha Project, Kangsabati Modernisation Project, left bank canal of Teesta Barrage through forest area, expeditious completion of on-going projects, dredging of Ganga in its lower reaches, antierosion works to be taken up as National Project to be funded by the centre. A suggestion was made that Centre should send an Expert team for assessment of on-going devastation due to erosion in Sagar and Ghoramare islands of Sunderban area of 24 paraganas (South) and further, this to be taken up as a National project for saving these islands from further erosion. It was also suggested to constitute a National Apex Body on Water management policy for surface and sub-surface utilisation of resources like national Flood Commissiion.

While Teesta Barrage Project has been recommended to the Planning Commission for consideration as National Project and its funding by the Centre, the concept and criteria for national projects have to be concurred by the Planning Commission. For expenditious completion of the irrigation projects, State Gvoernment has also to make sizeable increase in the irrigation sector. The Central Water Commission has taken up special drive to get the observations/ clarifications fulfilled through meetings with State officials for completing project appraisal formalities. For obtaining clearance/approval of irrigation projects, the State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the concerned Ministries at the Centre.

The Central team visited Ghoramare islands from 29th to 30th October, 1991, in pursuance of the suggestion made.

Nationalised Banks at Bangalore

1296. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue passport applications through post offices and nationalised banks at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such facility is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The possibility of sale of passport application forms through Post Offices and Banks is being explored.

Flood Control Projects In Kerala

1297. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details Including the estimated cost of the flood control projects in Kerala pending with the Union Government;

(b) the time by which those are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided to Kerala for control of floods in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no flood control project of Government of Kerala pending techno-economic appriasal with Central Water Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While no Centria assistance was provided for control of floods in kerala during